

REMARKS

This Election is responsive to the written Restriction Requirement dated February 10, 2005.

The Restriction Requirement

The Restriction Requirement dated Feb. 10, 2005 calls for election of one of:

- Group I Apparatus claims 18-42; and
- Group II Method claims 1-17 and 43-49.

Additionally, the Restriction Requirement further calls for election of one of:

- Species A FIGURES 1-4, 5A, 5B, 6, and 6A;
- Species B FIGURE 7;
- Species C FIGURE 9;
- Species D FIGURE 10;
- Species E FIGURE 11;
- Species F FIGURE 12; and
- Species G FIGURE 14.

Applicants elect Apparatus Group I

Applicants elect apparatus claims 18-27 and 30-42 for examination on the merits. Applicants have further canceled apparatus claims 28 and 29, and have added new apparatus claims 50-53 which separately claim the elements of the Markush groups of canceled claims 28 and 29. As apparatus claims 28 and 29 fall within Group I, apparatus claims 50-53 therefore also fall within Group I, and are also elected for examination on the merits.

Applicants cancel herein method claims 1-17 and 43-49; however, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these method claims in a subsequent continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application.

Applicants elect Species B, FIGURE 7

Applicants elect Species B, FIGURE 7 for examination on the merits.

Claims 18-20, 23, 25-27, 31-35, 40-42, and 50-53 are readable upon Species B, FIGURE 7.

As noted in the Restriction Requirement at page 3, "[u]pon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR [§] 1.141." Accordingly, upon allowance of a corresponding base claim, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of unelected dependent apparatus claims 21, 22, 24, 30, and 36-39 depending therefrom.

Although claims consonant with Species B have been elected, it is noted that the scopes of elected apparatus claims 18-20, 23, 25-27, 31-35, 40-42, and 50-53 are not limited to the elected embodiment, but should be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification, in accordance with 37 CFR § 2111.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application, and further submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on Feb. 16, 2004. Applicants respectfully request an indication of receipt of these Information Disclosure Statements and of consideration of the corresponding references in the forthcoming first Office Action on the merits.

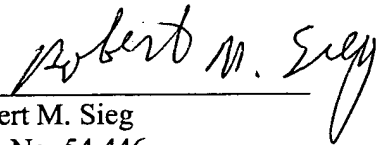
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 18-20, 23, 25-27, 31-35, 40-42, and 50-53 as set forth herein are suitably examined together. Accordingly, Applicants ask for entry of the amendments, and look forward to substantive examination of claims 18-20, 23, 25-27, 31-35, 40-42, and 50-53 as set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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